

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4–12 and 15–24 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 12, 23 and 24 are amended.

Claims 1, 9-10, 12, 20-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,751,956 to Kirsch. Claims 4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kirsch in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,099 to Horstmann et al. ("Horstmann"). Claims 5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kirsch in view of Horstmann and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,736 to Ogle et al. Claims 6–8, 17–19 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kirsch in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,128,279 to Muller et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,321,242 to Fogg et al. ("Fogg"). Claims 11 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kirsch in view of Fogg. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 4–12 and 15–24 Are Allowable Over the Cited References

Claim 1 recites a method for forwarding a web address to another web address in a network and recites, in pertinent part, "receiving a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI)," "determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator" "combining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier" and "redirecting the request to the second web address." Claims 12, 23 and 24, as amended, are directed to a computer-readable medium, an apparatus and a system, respectively, and recite similar subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that the references cited by the Examiner fail to disclose at least determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator.

The office action cites to Kirsch at col. 4 lines 10-20 as showing the features of claims 1, 12, 23 and corresponding features in claim 24. However, Kirsch discloses the HTTP protocol providing URL redirection, that maps a server local directory URL reference to an external URL

reference. When a HTTP server receives a URL reference to a local directory (/dir1) that is specified for redirection by a configuration directive:

Redirect/dir1 <http://newserver.widget.com/dir1>

A redirect message is returned to the client browser including a new location in the form of an URL (<http://newserver.widget.com/dir1>). Thus, while the claims recite determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, the uniform resource identifier not being used in determining the forwarding uniform resource locator, Kirsch uses the URI to determine what may be considered a forwarding URL. The claimed invention instead uses the domain name to determine the forwarding URL, and does not use the URI. The other references do not solve this deficiency of Kirsch.

Accordingly, claims 1, 12, 23 and 24 are allowable over the cited references. Claims 4–11, depending from claim 1, and claims 15–22, depending from claim 12, are also allowable, at least for the reasons discussed above. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the pending rejections.

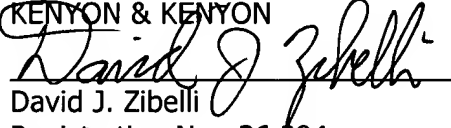
In view of the amendments and remarks submitted above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present case is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4294 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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